

Threads Through Time

Analyze how a modern story reshapes a myth.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.9a "Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that echo the Ariadne and Theseus myth, circle two details that make this version modern, and number 1, 2, 3 beside the events that match the old story's pattern. These marks will help you explain how the author makes an old story new.

Orange Line

- ① During the citywide blackout, Imani stood outside the closed Riverside subway station with a coil of bright orange climbing cord. Her younger brother, Malik, had entered the station to search for their missing neighbor before floodwater sealed the lower tunnels. Imani tied one end of the cord to a railing and stepped into the dark. The station map showed straight routes, but fallen signs and rising water turned the passages into a maze. Behind her, the cord unspooled across the wet floor.
- ② Her grandmother had once described Ariadne, who gave Theseus a thread before he entered the Labyrinth to face the Minotaur. Imani's cord served the same purpose, marking a way out of a confusing place. Yet Imani was not waiting safely outside. She was the one walking forward, calling Malik's name. Each time she reached a split in the tunnel, she tugged the cord and listened for an answer. A faint knock finally sounded beyond a locked service door.
- ③ Imani followed the cord back to the platform, then used a maintenance phone to direct firefighters to the door. They freed Malik and the neighbor, who had been pinned by a fallen cabinet. When the group emerged, Imani saw that the orange line had led everyone through the station, not only her. The story borrows the old maze-and-thread pattern, but its danger is a broken city system, not a monster. Its hero succeeds by keeping a path open for others.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What pattern of events from the Ariadne and Theseus myth does this story use? Describe the pattern in order.

2 How is Imani like Ariadne, and how is she different from Ariadne?

3 How does changing the Minotaur into a flooded subway station make the conflict modern?

4 What theme does the ending develop? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write 4 to 5 sentences that sketch a modern story based on a myth, traditional story, or religious work. Name the source, include two borrowed elements and one modern change, and explain how the change gives the story a new message.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that echo the Ariadne and Theseus myth, circle two details that make this version modern, and number 1, 2, 3 beside the events that match the old story's pattern. These marks will help you explain how the author makes an old story new. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What pattern of events from the Ariadne and Theseus myth does this story use? Describe the pattern in order.	A person enters a maze-like place, uses a thread or cord to mark a route, and escapes with help from that route.
2	How is Imani like Ariadne, and how is she different from Ariadne?	Like Ariadne, Imani uses a cord to provide a way out of a confusing maze. Unlike Ariadne, Imani enters the dangerous place herself instead of giving the thread to someone else.
3	How does changing the Minotaur into a flooded subway station make the conflict modern?	The threat becomes a realistic urban emergency caused by flooding, fallen signs, and a trapped person instead of a mythical monster.
4	What theme does the ending develop? Use two details from the passage to support your answer.	A possible theme is that courage can mean creating a safe path for others. Imani uses the maintenance phone to guide firefighters, and the orange cord leads the whole group through the station.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My story draws on the myth of Icarus, whose wax-and-feather wings failed after he flew too close to the sun. In my version, Leo ignores a safety warning and sends his homemade drone too high during a heat wave. Like Icarus, he feels thrilled by rising higher and loses what carries him. The modern version warns that invention needs responsibility, especially when other people's safety is involved.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect the modern subway rescue to the maze-and-thread pattern in the myth. For the open task, accept any accurate source connection with two clear borrowed elements, a modern change, and an explanation of the new message.